

**DATE:** April 28, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Race to the Top Implementation Status

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has been responsible for implementing several projects of the state's First to the Top initiatives, managing \$23 million in funding. THEC has been working closely with institutions of higher education and the TN Department of Education to ensure that the work aligns with the overall goals of education reform.

March 29, 2011, marked the one-year anniversary of Tennessee's Race to the Top win. Notable successes in year one have been: the development of a new teacher and principal evaluation system, improved opportunities for professional development, expansion of the STEM Innovation Network, increased funding through the Charter School Growth Fund, feedback from educators through the TELL Tennessee Survey, and successful UTeach replication at four higher education institutions.

Staff will give an update on current STEM activities, including progress on the STEM Innovation Network and STEM Professional Development, as well as information on recent TVAAS training sessions conducted statewide.